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the mother tongue? If a man deserves to be made a bishop in the English church because he has edited a Greek tragedy, he ought to be made something more, — an archbishop at least, — for a critical edition of an ancient English epic.

Though Mr. D'Israeli's book is entertaining and valuable, it cannot be said to be well written. He has no great command of English style. He has no glow and eloquence of language; his phraseology is pinched and painful. He has nothing of the tumultuous copiousness, that foams and flashes through the novels of his son. Very frequently his language is deformed by awkward expressions, and sometimes by violations of the English idiom. He has declared open war against the purists, and makes new words, — *neologisms*, he calls them, — without the slightest fear of criticism before his eyes. This he often does when there is no necessity, even when the old words would be a great deal better. But these are but faults of a work which deserves, on the whole, high praise. We regret that the American publishers were not more careful to have the proof-sheets well read. There are many typographical errors, which deform the page and offend the reader's eye, and which a little labor would have avoided. A book that is worth reprinting at all, is worth printing correctly.

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7. — *A Complete Family Registration. Part I. Containing Charts, and Directions for Registering, on a New and Simple Plan, the Birth, Marriage, and Death of the several Members of the Family, and for Ascertaining and Exhibiting at once their Connexions, Relative Situation, Heirs at Law, Ancestors, Descendants, and Generation. Part II. Containing Forms and Suggestions for Registering other Particulars, proper or useful to be retained in Remembrance, relative to every Member of any Family, from which a Particular Biography or History of any Individual or Family may be easily Compiled.* By LEMUEL SHATTUCK, Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, &c. &c. Boston: W. D. Ticknor. 4to. pp. 300.

MR. SHATTUCK is entitled to the thanks of those who value works of this description, both for the undertaking, and for its successful accomplishment. The Register is divided into two parts. The first contains various tables for family registrations, with directions as to the manner of filling them up. They extend through six generations in the direct line, both paternal and maternal, with a blank space for the name of each

ancestor ; placing the name of the individual who registers as the first in the ascending line. There are also tables the reverse of these, in which the common ancestor is taken as the starting point, and the successive generations follow on and widen out in their regular order. Thus may be exhibited at a glance, and in a very compact form, the whole of the paternal and maternal line, for as many generations as the individual may have the means of inserting. Then follow other and more particular forms for each parent, in which are to be entered the name, time, and place of birth, marriage, and death, the age, residence, &c.; with easy and apt references to the blank leaves in the Second Part, that are intended for more minute records of the same kind, for family and personal sketches, anecdotes, and other matters, that may be deemed worthy of preservation. The references from generation to generation in both branches, and to each member in any particular branch, are simple and comprehensive, and the precise *locality* of each is at once seen by the figures placed against his name.

The Second Part contains what may be called *family statistics*. It has convenient tables, designed to embrace the items and amount of personal and family expenses ; sickness, its kind and duration ; the physical developement and social condition of each member ; the annual income, and the general sources from which it is derived ; with sundry other matters relating to domestic economy and arrangement, of profit to any who may give heed to them. In this way, with careful industry, a vast amount of information may be garnered up, valuable to the individual, and of importance in the respective generations of the family. Some of it would be of more general moment ; especially what relates to diseases, which might thus be traced, in their various phases, through successive periods ; so that an accurate discrimination could be made between the hereditary and particular malady ; between its first appearance and its reproduction ; in its simple forms, and in its varied combinations.

Mr. Shattuck has given very plain and full directions for using both parts of his work ; and has accompanied them with some earnest and judicious observations, not in our opinion exaggerated, touching the importance and interest of an accurate register ; important frequently in matters of property and otherwise ; of interest to every man and all of his line, at all times. There will be many, as there have been many, to cry out against the idea of registering such facts, as an unprofitable business, fit only for musty antiquaries ; and they will express surprise, that any thought or attention should be wasted upon such " vain questions of endless genealogies." With such

views we have no sympathy. The pursuit is commendable, and the results have their use. A regard for ancestry is not a factitious thing. It is implanted as a good element, and of potent influence upon character, to excite virtuous energy in the contemplation of the lives of those whose blood courses through our veins ; and not as a matter of family pride, to be fostered and pampered, and to make the heart cold.

We are glad, therefore, that a plan has been devised so perfectly simple, and at the same time capable of being extended to any number of generations without marring its character. Notwithstanding its simplicity, the work is evidently the result of thought and careful contrivance, and will overcome the difficulty experienced by many in devising charts that would be at the same time plain, comprehensive, and of easy reference. Doubtless many, who have scarcely hitherto given a thought to the subject, will be induced to adopt the author's suggestions, and set themselves to the task of filling up their family charts. Indeed, we have already been amused in seeing some of our friends, who to this time have been guiltless of any genealogical *rabies*, becoming inoculated at the first sight of the book, and busily engaging themselves in laying the foundation of their own Family Registers.

There is much weight in the suggestion of Mr. Shattuck, as to the increased importance of keeping registers in New England, from the fact, that the old system of registration in the town books is very generally neglected. Had this formerly been the case, but little of this knowledge would now be preserved ; certainly but little having any claim to accuracy. But, thanks to the old Puritans, our records show that the law was once regarded ; and the town books are the valuable and authentic sources from which we derive *great store* of genealogical information ; to such an extent, indeed, that scarcely any one of New England descent, of full blood, can fail, with proper industry, to trace his whole line, from the first migration of his ancestors.

While therefore it would be well, could the old law be strictly enforced, — which we do not expect, as the tendency of the age is all the other way, and reverence for law is not on the increase, — the appearance of this convenient manual, by Mr. Shattuck, will do much, we trust, towards preserving for the future, whatever is within our own time, as well as the goodly treasures of the past.